

[http://www.russiatoday.com/Politics/2009-05-06/Is\\_religious\\_freedom\\_deteriorating\\_in\\_Russia.html](http://www.russiatoday.com/Politics/2009-05-06/Is_religious_freedom_deteriorating_in_Russia.html)

A US panel added Russia to its watch list of 11 countries which it believes are regressing in the area of religious freedom. While this raises several genuine problems in Russian society, some arguments seem flawed.

The annual report by the **Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**, a Congress-backed agency of experts was highly critical of the developments in Russia, saying the country is deteriorating in terms of religious freedom.

Russia was added to the watch list, which also includes Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Laos, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Venezuela, as countries where religious minorities are mistreated, and believers face official restrictions.